Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

Latin America

REGIONAL AND POLITICAL ANALYSIS

RP ALA 77-043
9 June 1977

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

3.5(c)
Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

Page Denied

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

3.5(c)

LATIN AMERICA
9 June 1977

NR

Argentina: Political Revival? 7

NR

This publication is prepared for regional specialists in the Washington community by the Latin America Division, Office of Regional and Political Analysis, with occasional contributions from other offices within the Directorate of Intelligence. Comments and queries are welcome. They should be directed to the authors of the individual articles.

RP ALA 77-043
9 June 1977

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

Page Denied

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

Page Denied

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

Page Denied

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

Page Denied

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

NR

Page Denied

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

NR

Page Denied

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

3.5(c)

Argentina: Political Revival?

Some Argentine politicians and prominent citizens are emerging from more than a year of near public silence with a variety of statements and proposals, all aimed at restoring political activity, which has been officially suspended since the March 1976 coup.

Leaders of the Peronist movement, still the nation's largest political grouping, have become more vocal than at any time since the military takeover--although they have been carefully stressing that their aims are not political. Peronists belonging to a group whose purposes are ostensibly "cultural," as opposed to "political," have chosen an executive council which will oversee the writing of a statement evaluating the country's current overall situation. Among those undertaking the project are Italo Luder, Federico Angel Robledo, and Nicasio Sanchez Toranzo, all of whom gained prominence during the presidency of the ousted Isabel Peron. Their evaluation, to be issued shortly, is expected to amount to a criticism of the present regime, particularly on the human rights score.

Argentina's second largest party, the Radicals, making its first major statement since the military took over last year, has issued a call for the restoration of "all freedoms." Specifically, the party declared that the junta should lift its ban on the functioning of political parties.

An influential journalist recently proposed the establishment of an organization to be called the "National Reorganization Movement." According to the proposal, the movement would form the basis of a government-sponsored single-party system. The proposal, however, plays down--and perhaps would rule out--meaningful political participation by the principal existing parties, the Radicals and Peronists. A variety of journalists have for some time put forth any number of political ideas and criticisms, but this latest one is the most pointed to date.

RP ALA 77-043
9 June 1977

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

The junta's ban on all blatantly political activity never really achieved total success. Adherents of a variety of views have regularly maneuvered to gain influence with the military in the hope that their respective positions would take hold once the political rules are relaxed. Indeed, the officers themselves fully expect such contacts and use them to advance their own political interests. The recent flurry of political verbiage, however, is the most concentrated effort as yet.

For the current round of proselytizing to get as far as it has, two factors appear to have been essential. One is that a great deal of discussion and opinion-taking have been going on for some time within a number of interested political sectors. The other is that each of the ideas expressed, whether a criticism or a proposal, had at least the tacit support of some influential current of opinion within the armed forces.

The political expression that has surfaced was not necessarily orchestrated by the junta, but it does seem to have had beneficial results for the regime. Since it is firmly in control, the government can easily withstand such criticism, particularly that emanating from the vanquished Peronists. But on another level, the outpouring of opinions seems to have diverted attention from problem areas, such as subversion and the effects of the so-called Graiver case. Moreover, the activity may give greater credibility to President Videla's stated desire for "dialogue" with representative civilian groups. He can point to the latest increase of political criticism and suggestions as proof of his government's willingness to listen.

No one in or out of government seriously suggests that the latest developments presage an early return to any semblance of unfettered civilian politics. Indeed, the major parties probably do not want a rapid normalization, since they are simply not prepared. Nonetheless, it is clear that a new stage of political evolution, characterized by increasing public debate, has been reached and that a great outpouring of ideas is yet to come. It would be difficult for the military to reverse this process without arousing deep, widespread resentment among the populace.

RP ALA 77-043
9 June 1977

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

President Videla hopes to keep this process under control. If it proceeds too fast, hard-line critics may become fearful that the military's authority is being undermined and consequently step up their pressure on him. If the process is gradual, however, Videla will have deprived his military critics of at least one excuse for opposing his tactics. [redacted] 3.5(c)

[redacted] 3.5(c)

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

NR

Page Denied

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

NR

Page Denied

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

NR

Page Denied

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

Page Denied

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

Page Denied

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

Page Denied

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

Page Denied

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

Page Denied

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

NR

Page Denied

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

NR

Page Denied

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

NR

Page Denied

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

NR

Page Denied

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

NR

Page Denied

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

NR

Page Denied

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

NR

Page Denied

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

NR

Page Denied

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

NR

Page Denied

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

Page Denied

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

Page Denied

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

Page Denied

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

NR

Page Denied

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

Page Denied

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

Page Denied

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

Page Denied

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

NR

Page Denied

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

Page Denied

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

Page Denied

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

Page Denied

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

Page Denied

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

Page Denied

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

Page Denied

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

NR
Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C03000038